

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
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DESCRIPTION OF A NEW ENGYSTOMATID FROG OF
THE GENUS HYPOPACHUS.

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Among the amphibians brought from Colombia by the Bryant Walker Expedition of the University of Michigan (1913), are 12 specimens of an Engystomatid frog that seems to be undescribed. The writer takes great pleasure in dedicating this species to Dr. A. S. Pearse, the carcinologist of the expedition, who very materially assisted in the herpetological work.

***Hypopachus pearsei* sp. nov.**

Diagnosis.—Pecoracoids very weak; sternum a cartilaginous plate, no omosternum. Diapophyses of sacral vertebrae moderately dilated. Pupil erect. Tongue elliptic, entire, free behind. No vomerine teeth; a ridge across the palate in front of the internal nares and another anterior to the oesophagus. Tympanum concealed. Head small; body large; limbs short. Total length of largest specimens, 40-47 mm. Snout pointed, on the average twice as long as the diameter of the eye. Tibio-tarsal articulation reaching the elbow when the limbs are extended along the sides. Fore-limb when extended forward reaching beyond the snout by the length of the longest toe or less than this distance. Fingers free; toes free or with slight rudiment of web. A low inner metatarsal tubercle, no outer tubercle. Skin smooth; a fold around the head behind the eyes. Color above bluish slate black or blackish slate* with a few minute white dots or very many small white spots; generally a trace of a fine median white line. Chin and throat as above or a little lighter, with very numerous white spots and a few pinkish spots. In adults the under surface of the body and limbs and the upper side of the hind feet about carrot red with irregular blackish reticulations, the dark areas frequently with small white spots. Inguinal and axillary regions and anterior and

*Color Standards and Color Nomenclature, Robert Ridgway, 1912.

posterior faces of the thigh more or less completely suffused with carrot red; shoulder above, below, and in front of the arm insertion with large more or less confluent carrot red blotches. In a young specimen (26 mm.) the lower surface of the body and limbs blackish slate with very numerous small spots most of which are white, but a few, with the inguinal region, carrot red.

Habitat.—Found in the vicinity of Fundacion, Colombia.

Type specimen.—Museum of Zoölogy, University of Michigan, Cat. No. 45,571; Fundacion, Colombia; August 13, 1913; Arthur Sperry Pearse, collector.

Description of type specimen.—Female. Total length, 40 mm.; snout, 4 mm.; diameter of eye, 2 mm. Fore-limb reaching slightly beyond the snout. The tibio-tarsal articulation just reaching the elbow when the limbs are extended along the side. Toes blunt with rudiment of web. A single, rather low, inner metatarsal tubercle, no outer tubercle; sub-articular tubercles distinct. Skin smooth, a fold around the head behind the eyes. Blackish slate above with many small white spots; a trace of a fine median white line. Lower surface of body and limbs with the upper surface of the hind feet carrot red, chin and throat about deep neutral gray with numerous small white spots. Inguinal region and anterior and posterior faces of thigh carrot red, on the posterior side of the thigh interrupted by blackish reticulations. Axillary region carrot red, and shoulder with large carrot red spots above, below and in front of the arm insertion.

Remarks.—As has been pointed out to me by Dr. Leonhard Stejneger, this species is similar in form and color to the Matogrosso specimens described by Steindachner* as a color variation of *Gastrophryne (Engystoma) ovale*. Steindachner does not state that he has examined the shoulder girdle in these specimens, which are in the K. K. Naturhistorisches Hofmuseum in Vienna, but they have been dissected by Dr. F. Siebenrock, at my request, who states that the precoracoids are absent. In *Hypopachus pearsei* they are present in every specimen of the twelve examined, whereas they are absent in a typical specimen of *Gastrophryne ovale* from the same habitat.

A specimen in the U. S. National Museum (No. 14,718), catalogued as from Colombia, S. A., which Doctor Stejneger has kindly permitted me to examine, is to be referred to *H. pearsei*. It is an old specimen which has been partially dissected, and the precoracoids are broken, but pieces of the precoracoids remain and the other characters are as in the material described above.

Local distribution and habits.—*Hypopachus pearsei* was found only in the vicinity of Fundacion. About this village there are a number of marshes from which the forest has been wholly or partially cleared, and it was about these marshes that all of the specimens were secured. They were found in forms beneath logs in damp places, but in the drier parts of the swamps, generally about the margin of the cleared areas or in the

* Verh. k. k. Zool.-bot. Ges. in Wien, 1861, p. 285, pl. XVII, figs 1, 4a.

surrounding forest, and seemed to avoid equally the decidedly dry habitats and the wetter parts of the marshes.

When exposed to the light they appeared to be dazed, and as a rule only crouched closer in their forms. When further disturbed they would attempt to get under some nearby cover, which was generally the log which had been rolled off them. They rarely jumped when attempting to escape capture, their usual gait being apparently a sort of walk in which the body is pushed forward principally by the powerful hind legs. When they jump the body is not raised much above the ground.

The stomach contents of two specimens have been examined. In one there are many termites and ants, the termites predominating, a few pieces of insects other than ants, a few fragments of vegetable matter, and some small lumps of earth. The vegetable and inorganic matter was probably taken accidentally with the food. The other stomach contains ants only.

